

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 ACDA-05 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /092 W

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O 111115Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6604

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12658

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT CLASHES CONTINUE--ALONG WITH EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT CEASEFIRE

REF: BEIRUT 12643 (10 OCT 75 1350Z)

1. FIGHTING CONTINUED IN BEIRUT NIGHT OF OCT 10-11 IN SEVERAL AREAS, INCLUDING SOME QUARTERS OF WEST BEIRUT TOUCHED ONLY INTERMITTENTLY ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. PARADOXICALLY, HOWEVER, THE USUAL CENTERS OF CONFLICT IN CHIYAH AND AIN EL-RUMANNEH WERE MUCH QUIETER THAN USUAL. (THERE IS LATE REPORT OF MOSLEM-CHRISTIAN RECONCILIATION THERE, WITH HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS IN ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC "PEACE" FESTIVITIES TODAY. WE ARE CHECKING FURTHER.) THE CLASHES THAT OCCURRED DURING THE NIGHT GENERALLY PITTED PHALANGE AGAINST MIXED MOSLEM-LEFTIST GROUPS, MOST PROMINENT AMONG THE LATTER BEING IBRAHIM QUALAYLAT'S NASSERISTS.

2. AS OF 1100 HOURS (LOCAL) TODAY, OCT 11, FIGHTING HAD GENERALLY DIED DOWN. THE MAIN DANGER TODAY IN MOST PARTS OF TOWN IS FROM SNIPERS, BUT CLASHES ERUPTED FROM TIME TO TIME EARLY THIS MORNING BETWEEN ARMED GROUPS. THE RENEWED EFFORT BEGUN YESTERDAY TO REMOVE PRIVATE MILITIAMEN FROM BARRICADES AT LAST REPORT HAS MADE ONLY PARTIAL HEADWAY. INTERNAL SECURITY PERSONNEL HAVE REPLACED PHALANGE AT SOME--BUT BY NO MEANS ALL-ROADBLOCKS.

3. THE SITUATION IN THE TRIPOLI-ZGHORTA AREA IS STILL VERY TENSE. THERE WAS FIGHTING DURING MUCH OF DAY OCT 10. HOWEVER, INTERNAL SECURITY HQ IN BEIRUT TELLS US THAT A CEASEFIRE NEGOTIATED FOR 2300 HOURS (LOCAL) OCT 10 WAS HOLDING AS OF 0900 HOURS (LOCAL) OCT 11.

4. WITH EFFORTS PROGRESSING SLOWLY AGAINST HEAVY ODDS TO PUT TOGETHER THE CEASEFIRE FORMULA EMERGING FROM PREMIER KARAME'S DAMASCUS TRIP, POLITICAL INTEREST TODAY SHIFTS TO NEXT WEEK'S ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTERS MEETING IN CAIRO, SCHEDULED FOR OCT 15 ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND IT MAY BE MOVED UP TO OCT 13. CONSIDERABLY LESS INTEREST IS BEING GIVEN BY JADED BEIRUTIS TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT "NATIONAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE" WILL RECONVENE HERE OCT 13. THE ABILITY OF THE "DIALOGUE" MEETING TO DISCUSS THE POLITICAL ISSUES FOR WHICH IT WAS FORMED DEPENDS ON SUCCESS ACHIEVED OVER THE WEEKEND IN STOPPING THE FIGHTING.

5. UNLESS DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR WARRANTING A REPORT
TOMORROW, WE ANTICIPATE OUR NEXT SITREP FOR MONDAY,
OCT 13.
GODLEY

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